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NEWS RELEASE

Bobby M. Goode, State Director, Nashville, Tennessee, www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn

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USDA Rural Development names Armstrong new Jackson Area Director

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 13, 2010 - USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode has named Arlisa Springfield Armstrong Director of the agency's Jackson Area Office that serves 12 southwest Tennessee counties.

"Arlisa brings a wealth of hands-on field experience to her new role," said Goode. "Having worked in our business programs, rural housing programs and office management she has a firm grip on the needs of our West Tennessee customers and staff. She also brings a wealth of fresh ideas to the table and is an asset to our management team in Tennessee."

During 16 years of service with USDA Rural Development, Armstrong has served in a number of roles. She started as a County Office Clerk, was promoted to technician and then loan specialist in 2004. Having served in Jackson, Covington and Union City Area Offices, Armstrong has worked with local leaders in every West Tennessee County over the years. She is a graduate of the Haywood County Leadership Program and holds a leadership position at her church, World Overcomers Outreach Ministries.

A Brownsville native, Armstrong earned her degree in Business Administration with a minor in Finance and Economics at Middle Tennessee State University. She remains an active member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sorority that implements community initiatives on the local and national level. Armstrong's daughter, Renesha, is studying nursing at the University of Memphis.

USDA Rural Development invests in jobs, businesses, community infrastructure, homeownership and affordable rental housing in rural communities. Last year Rural Development assisted more than 866,000 Tennessee families and businesses with more than \$619 million in affordable loans, loan guarantees and grants.

For more information on Rural Development programs available in southwest Tennessee contact the Rural Development Area Office in Jackson at 731-668-2091 ext. 2, toll free at 1-800-342-3149 extension 1495, or visit us online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn.

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